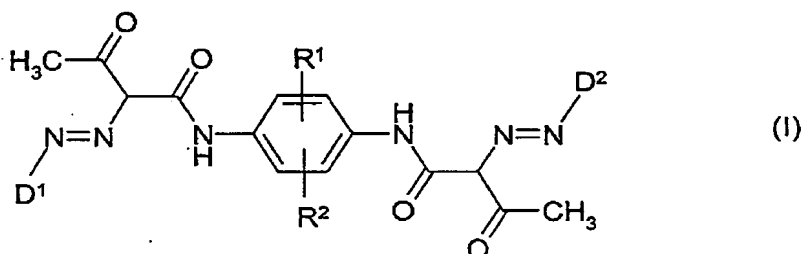


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Amendment to the Application

- 1) (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;
 D^1 and D^2 are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazoethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides, or in an aqueous solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkali pH ≥ 9 .

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2) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or trifluoromethyl.

3) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocycle is a benzimidazolone, phthalimide, naphthalimide, quinazoline, quinazolinone, quinazolinone, phthalazine, phthalazinone, phthalazinedione, quinoxaline, quinoxalinone or quinoxalinedione.

4) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heterocycles D¹ and D² are unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, nitro, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl and trifluoromethyl.

5) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the azo coupling product is in the form of a presscake, granules or a powder.

6) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 1 to 50% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

7) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a glycol, glycerol, a polyglycol, an ether, a glycol ether, a ketone, an aliphatic acid amide, a urea derivative, a cyclic carboxamide, an ester of an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid, a nitrile, an aliphatic, an aromatic or araliphatic hydrocarbon, an alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, and/or halogen-substituted

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benzene, an aromatic heterocycle, hexamethylphosphoramide, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone; a sulfone, a sulfoxide; and mixtures thereof.

8) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is a C₁-C₆ alcohol, dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidone dimethylsulfoxide, or mixtures thereof.

9) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution contains from 2.5 to 95% by weight of the at least one organic solvent.

10) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step occurs at an alkali pH of greater than 9.5.

11) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 250°C.

12) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out for a time of from 5 minutes to 96 hours.

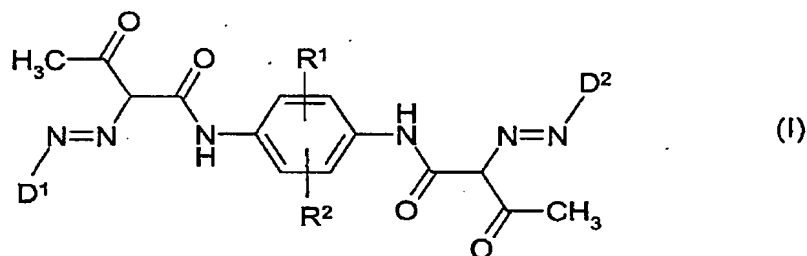
13) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an acid after the subjecting step at alkali pH.

14) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 2 to 20% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

15) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 3 to 17.5% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

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- 16) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert.-butanol or tert.-amyl alcohol, butyl glycol or a mixture thereof.
- 17) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution contains from 5 to 90% of the at least one organic solvent.
- 18) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 15° and 200°C.
- 19) (Cancelled)
- 20) (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₅ alkoxycarbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine,

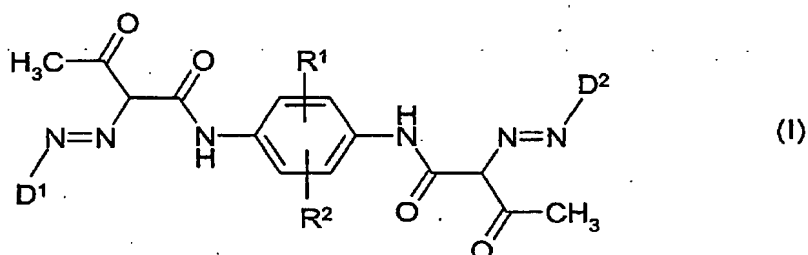
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phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₅ alkoxycarbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide,

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naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in an aqueous solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkali pH \geq 9.

23. (Cancelled)